RON TINDALL AWARD FOR CHAMP ROKI

Michael Roki became the first recipient of the Ron Tindall Medal as WA's Coach of the Year for 2011. The presentation was made by the legendary Tindall to a very appreciative Roki at a glittering awards ceremony held by Football West in October, 2011. Roki led Balcatta to the Premier League title, the first time the club had won the championship in its 34-year history. He was thrilled to become the first winner of the Ron Tindall Medal. "Ron's name is synonymous with WA soccer, so to receive the Ron Tindall award was both a privilege and an honour for me," said Roki. The decision to rename the coach-of-the-year award as the Ron Tindall Medal was the latest move by Football West to honour some of the greats of the game in WA. It had already paid tribute to others with presentations of the Gary Marocchi Medal (best player in the State League Grand Final), the Robbie Dunn Medal (best player in the Night Series), the Alan Beale Medal (best player in the Charity Shield) and the Stan Lazaridis Medal (best player in the Blood Donate Cup final). Although Tindall is best remembered as an influential coach in WA — he was State Director of Coaching, State team coach and Development Coach to the Department of Sport and Recreation — he was a notable performer in his playing days in England with Chelsea and West Ham. His outstanding achievements since emigrating to Australia in the late 1970's were acknowledged in 2002 when he was inducted into the Hall of Recognition.

Michael Roki (left) with Ron Tindall

Journey of Many Emotions for Peter

Hall of Fame Committee member Peter Dimopoulos made an emotional journey to Singapore in February. He was one of a small handful of World War Two veterans — and one of only two from WA — to attend a series of ceremonies to commemorate the 70th anniversary of the Fall of Singapore. About 80,00 British, Australian and Indian troops became prisoners of war when the Japanese took Singapore in February, 1942. Many were confined in Singapore's Changi Prison. Others were shipped to other parts of Asia. Peter, who lied about his age to join Australia's war effort when he was only 15, was one of those who was held in Singapore and he was forced to work on the notorious Thai-Burma Railway. "It was very difficult to return to Singapore and my emotions were all over the place at times," said Peter, who is now a lively 86. "It was so sad, particularly when I was in the Kranji War Cemetery and looked at all the graves of my mates, who were only 18 or 19 at the time." Peter's love of football kept him going during the war years and on returning to WA he played for several teams before turning to coaching and eventually being appointed coach — and later President — of the WA women's Association. He continued in many other administrative roles and was one of the inaugural inductees into the Hall of Recognition in 1996.

15 OF THE BEST FOR GLORY

Perth Glory celebrated its 15th anniversary by revealing the club's "Most Glorious 15" from 1996 to 2011 as selected by fans on an online poll. It includes Gareth Naven, who was inducted into the Hall of Champions in 2008, and Jason Petkovic, Scott Miller and Bobby Despotovski, who were all included in the Hall of Fame's Century of Champions in 2004. The Glorious 15 are:
Goalkeeper: Jason Petkovic. Defenders: Scott Neville, Andy Todd, Jamie Harnwell, Scott Miller. Midfielders: Matt Horsley, Gareth Naven, Edgar Junior, Con Boutsianis. Strikers: Bobby Despotovski, Damian Mori. Substitutes: Ivan Ergic, Vas Kalogeracos, Vinko Buljubasic, Nikita Rukavytsya.

MILLER AND THE LAWMAN

Former State player John Miller had a quiet chuckle at our story in the last Fame Game when we recalled referee Roy Steadman sending off the legendary Denis Law of Manchester United in a challenge game in 1967. "I was in the State squad for the game but did not make the team," said John. "However, I felt as though I had something in common with Denis Law — for Roy Steadman sent me off the following week in a State League game."

Football Hall of Fame Western Australia

THE FAME GAME

(The official newsletter of the Football Hall of Fame)

Issue 10 (Autumn 2012)

GET READY FOR MORE LEGENDS

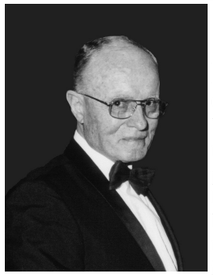
The inaugural Legends.....Gary Marocchi, Robbie Dunn, Ron Adair, John McInroy

There will be another touch of history when the Football Hall of Fame WA's Fifth Induction Ceremony is held at the Novotel Langley Hotel in Perth on Saturday, May 19, 2012. Two more champion players will be elevated into the Hall of Legends. The duo will join the first players to be inducted into the Hall of Legends in 2005 — former Australian captains Gary Marocchi and Ron Adair, multi-capped Aussie international Robbie Dunn and the State's greatest hot-shot goal-scorer John McInroy. One of the new Legends will be of particular significance. But you will have to be there on the night to find out why. Tickets are going fast for what promises to be a glittering occasion when there will also be star-studded inductions into the Hall of Champions, the Hall of Merit for Players and the Hall of Recognition. Readers of The Fame Game are welcome to attend the function, which will include pre-dinner drinks, a lavish three-course meal and all drinks — plush top class entertainment, which will include an appearance by the King of Rock "Elvis Presley". A collectors-item programme will also be provided for free on the night — and there will be the chance to own some valuable memorabilia as well. Further good news is that the cost of tickets have been reduced. Instead of the original $170 a head, it will now cost $150. If you are a member of the Hall of Fame — that is, a previous inductee — you are entitled to a further reduction. The ticket price will be $120. Tickets can be obtained by contacting Hall of Fame Treasurer Bob Brown (copbrown@inet.net.au) or Committee Secretary Barbara Gibson (9526 0330). There have been four previous Football Hall of Fame ceremonies — in 1996, 2002, 2006 and 2008. So far, a total of 123 have been inducted.

FIFA to grace WA's big event?

From left: John Boultbee FFA, John O'Connell, Louis Prospero Chairman FHOFWA, Bob Brown, Peter Hugg FW, Jeysing Muthiah FIFA, Roger Males.

For the first time, a FIFA representative is poised to attend the WA Football Hall of Fame's Induction Ceremony, which will take place on May 19, 2012. Jeysing Muthiah, one of FIFA's Development Officers for the Asia region who is based in Kuala Lumpur, has expressed a desire to make the trip to Perth for the big event. Mr Muthiah was recently in WA to check out Football West's submission for a FIFA financial grant to go towards the re-development of facilities. John Boultbee, who is the new head of Football Federation Australia body the National Football Development, also made the trek West to run the rule over Football West's plans. "We invited Mr Muthiah to become the first man from world rulers FIFA to attend one of our induction events — and he indicated he would be very keen to do so," said Football Hall of Fame committee chairman Louis Prospero. "We always send an invitation to the FIFA boss Sepp Blatter each time we have an event. He is usually unavailable, such is the demand on his time, but he always graciously replies and wishes us well in our ventures. "We have also invited Mr Boultbee to attend — and we have received a positive response from him." FFA's chief executive Ben Buckley has already indicated that he is also keen to attend what promises to be a glittering occasion. Mr Mutiah met State Government representatives at a dinner in Perth during his visit — and earlier was briefed on the workings of the Football Hall of Fame WA by Committee man John O'Connell and other members of the Committee.



Vale Frank Miller — A TRUE ICON

Frank Miller died on February 18, 2012, aged 82. He was a member of the original Hall of Fame Committee. David Andrews, another original HoF Committee man, writes: "Frank Miller was a true post World War Two West Australian football icon. "He was one of a small handful of people who took on the task of resurrecting the image of the code that had lain dormant throughout the war and in the immediate post war period. "Born in Fortrose, Scotland in 1929, Frank migrated to Perth in 1947 bringing with him a love of the World game. "In a lifetime of dedication to football he was a player (with Balmoral Rangers before a knee injury brought his activities to a halt), administrator, State selector and a keen observer of the game in WA. "Frank managed to balance his life as a bank manager with that of being a football journalist. He honed his observations reporting on the game for the West Australian Newspaper from 1950 followed by stints at the Daily News, ABC (TV) and Channel Nine, filing his last report for the Daily News in 1972. "It was natural that when the Soccer Federation of WA launched the Hall of Fame in 1996 (the first such endeavour for the game in Australia) they would seek the assistance of Frank to develop the concept with emphasis on the historic content and the methodology for induction. "Then, for his tireless attention to promoting the cause of football, Frank was one of the first inducted into the Hall of Fame in the Hall of Recognition category. "Recently his contribution in promoting the game was also rewarded with a Life Membership to the Football Media Association of Australia. He was the first person from WA to gain such an honour with the organisation. "He will always be remembered for his meticulous accuracy and for the generous spirit in passing on his knowledge to those who would seek it." • The Committee of the Hall of Fame turned out in force to pay tribute to Frank Miller at his funeral at Karrakatta Cemetery on February 28. Committee man John O'Connell delivered a eulogy detailing Frank's involvement with the game in WA, and his outstanding contribution to the establishment of the Hall of Fame in WA. One of the Hall of Fame's Legends, former Australian captain Ron Adair, travelled from his home in Greenbushes to attend the service. Another Hall of Famer, ex-referee Roy Steadman, also paid his final respects, as did former Perth Azzurri coach John Birighitti.

John Montagu, one of the champions

John Montagu, one of WA's finest champion players, died on October 24, 2011. He was 79. John was born in Liverpool in 1932 and emigrated to Perth in 1961, boasting an outstanding football pedigree. He had played for the Liverpool boys team and was picked for the England schoolboys side that played against Italy in the 1949-50 season. John earnestly pursued his Footballing career, first with Liverpool's reserves and then with Everton — however, he chose to try his luck in Australia and the tall defender was quickly snapped up by Floreat Athena when he arrived Down Under. It didn't take him long to stand out as a player of exceptional quality and he won the Carbonell Cup as the league's "fairest and best" in 1963. John then moved to Perth Azzurri in 1964, being appointed captain. The following season he took up the offer to become player-coach of Morley Windmills. He was picked five times for the WA State team. Further honours followed and when the Committee of the Hall of Fame WA sat down in 2004 to choose WA's Greatest 100 Players, John Montagu's name was one of the first to be considered for the list. He was a fitting representative of "A Century of Champions".

• Bob Adair died on February 18, 2012. He was one day short of his 85th birthday. Bob was born in Belfast and, on arriving in WA in the 1950's, he teamed up with the Maccabeans club. He was one of four brothers who made an outstanding contribution to the game in WA, including Ron Adair, who went on to captain Australia.

• Edmundo Faletti died on December 14, 2011. He was born in 1928 in Cellino San Marco in the region of Puglia, Italy. He came to WA in 1950 and initially worked in the wheatbelt town of Corrigin. He then moved to Perth and joined Perth Azzurri, for whom he was a prolific goalscorer. He also represented the State in two games against Australia at the WACA Ground in 1952. WA lost the first contest 2-0, although Faletti hit the post in a second half. The second game was drawn 1-1. Faletti's career was cut short when he contracted TB in one kidney. But he went on to coach Azzurri for a spell.

An end to the Mira Ulehla mystery

At last, a mystery that has confounded the Committee of the Hall of Fame for many years has been solved. Efforts to trace the whereabouts of former Perth Azzurri captain and player-coach Mira Ulehla — who was one of WA's finest midfielders in the 1950's — had proved fruitless until a few months ago. Ulehla had been included in the "Century of Champions", which was compiled in 2004 to celebrate the 100 Greatest Players in the State between 1902 and 2002. Attempts to contact him at the time, regarding attending the ceremony, hit a brick wall. Then, a request was received late last year from one of Ulehla's relatives for a copy of the booklet that was put together to honour the Top one hundred. "It came right out of the blue, and we were only too happy to oblige as it helped to tie up something that had been bugging us for a long time," said Hall of Fame Chairman Louis Prospero. The relative revealed that Ulehla had sadly died — as long ago as 1983. Born in Czechoslavia, Ulehla arrived in WA in 1951 and was an instant hit when he joined Azzurri. His midfield artistry brought a new dimension to a team that went on to dominate the local scene — and he was rewarded with inclusion in the State team that faced Vienna Rapid and South Africa in 1955. Miro won the State's "fairest and best" award in 1957, when he was player-coach of Azzurri, and the following year he left WA to pursue his profession as a mathematician. Ironically, he had been nicknamed "The Professor" by football fans because of his ability to dominate midfield. He went to Melbourne, where he met his future wife, and briefly taught mathematics in America before returning to Australia. He married in 1959 and had three children — Boris, Ines and Ariane. He never played or coached football again, instead focusing on his career as a mathematics professor at RMIT (Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology) University. David Andrews, author of "Azzurri — 50 Golden Years", said that many believed that Ulehla was the finest player ever to pull on a shirt for Azzurri.

THANKS TO OUR SUPPORTERS

The 15th Anniversary of the Football Hall of Fame WA was celebrated with a function to thank some of the groups and individuals who have sponsored — and supported — the organisation since it was established in 1996. Hall of Fame Committee Chairman Louis Prospero thanked them for their much-valued assistance over a period that has embraced four Induction Ceremonies (1996, 2002, 2005, 2008) and the celebration of a "Century of Champions" in 2004. Among those who attended the get-together were Football West chief executive Peter Hugg, Football West Board member Henry Atturo, Hall of Fame Patron Julian Burt, former England international John Sydenham, plus Stuart Kamasz, Aldo Trinca, Johnny Davidson, Russell Goodrick, Ashley Morrison, Keith Briers and Georges Baptista.

Edwards takes on the Joeys

A big pat on the back to former Perth Glory striker Alistair Edwards who has been appointed as the Head Coach to the Australian Under-17 team (nicknamed the Joeys). He will be in charge of the team for the under-age 2012 Asian Cup, to be held in October, and for the 2013 FIFA Under-17 World Cup, the finals of which will be held in the United Arab Emirates. Edwards, who is highly valued by the Football Federation Australia, will also continue in his role as the FFA Assistant Technical Director. His former Socceroo team-mate Tony Vidmar will be his assistant with the Under-17 squad. Edwards had considerable success when he was the Head Coach of the Australian women's Under-20 team, guiding them to the finals of the 2006 U-20 World Cup in Russia. A winner of 22 Socceroos caps, he played in Scotland, England, Malaysia, Singapore and with Sydney Olympic before joining the Glory and playing 93 times for them, scoring 24 goals. He was inducted into the WA Hall of Champions in 2008.

SALUTE TO THE WILLIAMS CLAN

Former State team coach Eric Williams, who was inducted into the Hall of Recognition in 2005, must be a mighty proud dad these days. His three sons — Rhys, Ryan and Aryn — have all broken into English football. Rhys, 23, is a valued utility player with English Championship side Middlesbrough, and recently ended speculation that he might join Premier League sides Liverpool or Bolton by signing a new contract with Boro. He represented Wales at Under-21 level, but opted to pledge his senior career with Australia and has already made nine appearances for the Socceroos. Ryan, 18, recently joined Premier League club Fulham in a £500,000 transfer from Portsmouth. The pacy winger made his debut for Fulham when he turned out for the reserve team against Wolves in January, 2012. He had already played several first-team games for Portsmouth. His twin brother Aryn is a right back who is currently a member of the Burnley youth team squad. However, he has already featured in the Burnley reserves and is highly regarded. All three brothers were products of the ECU Joondalup club in WA. Eric Williams, who was born in Kent, played for England at under-18 amateur level before coming to WA to join Spearwood Dalmatinac. He later was very successful as State coach, leading the team to victories over the likes of West Ham and Nottingham Forest. He went on to coach in Indonesia.

IN BRIEF...

• Well done to Peter Rickers, who led the Australian Schoolboys team on a tour of Britain and Ireland in January, 2012. Peter is the coach of the highly-successful John Curtin College of the Arts football programme in Fremantle. He was inducted into the Hall of Recognition in 2008.

• Former WA State team coach Doug Stewart is writing two books — one his autobiography and the other on his football career. Doug would like to hear from some of his former colleagues to recall the good old days when he was in Perth in the 1950's and 1960's.

• Former WA Juniors President Harry Croft was among those whose Life Membership of the junior association was officially recognised by Football West at a ceremony last August — although Harry was too ill to attend. Now 85, the Barnsley-born administrator is still as chirpy as ever despite being housebound.

• One of Perth's best-known football identities, Barry Greenwood, has decided on a sea change. Barry has retired to the rural delights of Yalyalup, which is just outside Busselton.

• Perth Glory's former ace goalscorer Bobby Despotovski is excelling in another sport — golf. Bobby is a one-handicapper at Mt Lawley and has competed in the State amateur golf championship.

• Perth Glory's flying flank-man Scott Miller, one of our Century of Champions, celebrates a milestone birthday on May 18 when he will be 40.

• Congratulations to Hall of Fame Committee Chairman Louis Prospero, who is now a Justice of the Peace. Apart from Louis, the other members of the HoF Committee are: Bob Brown (treasurer), Barbara Gibson (secretary), John O'Connell, Peter Dimopoulos, Roger Males, Richard Kreider and Mel Moffat, who is also editor of The Fame Game. If you have any interesting bits of info — or you wish to inform us of a new address — Mel can be reached on 9339 8619. Email: mel.moffat@ipgonline.cc